A plan scheme for the Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme to make school / college students aware of their cultural heritages, has been included in the XI Five Year Plan.

National conservation policy

751. SHRIMATI. JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to formulate national conservation policy; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal to formulate a national conservation policy for historical monuments. However, as per the existing practice, the monuments declared protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 are maintained and conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India depending upon the availability of resources and the needs of intervention.

Stealing of idols of asthadhatu from Jain Temple

752. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around six idols of Asthadhatu were recently stolen from a Jain Temple, Gurgaon;

(b) whether Government have since been able to track down the alleged culprits;

(c) if so, whether all the idols have been recovered and whether any punishment were accorded to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Police Commissioner of Gurgaon, has informed that an FIR relating to theft of 10 Jaina images from the above temple has been registered on 27.1.2007 in the City Police Station, Gurgaon under IPC 457/380. The Jain Temple at Jaikampur, District Gurgaon in the State of Haryana is not a centrally protected monument.

The State Police has taken measures to apprehend the culprits. All immigration exit points at the Airport and Seaports have been alerted. So far the stolen sculptures have not been recovered nor have the culprits been apprehended.

Fake works in the Indian Art market

753. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Indian Art industry is presently estimated to be Rs. 2,000 crore and is expected to grow in tandem with our economic prowess;

(b) if so, whether Government would evolve such modalities to keep "fakes" of art works as was recently found in the cancelled exhibition of India's famous and well-known painter S.H. Raja; and